



# Roadside Memorials

## POLICY RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

# Roadside Memorials – A National Issue



- All 50 states have policies to address roadside memorials.
- North Carolina and Oregon prohibit memorials.
- Florida and Washington, allow only state-sanctioned markers.
- Alaska and West Virginia have statutes that encourage memorials.
- Utah offers to plant wildflowers or erect a state-approved sign.
- Delaware engraves bricks for a state-maintained memorial garden.
- Massachusetts imposes a 30-day limit on roadside memorials.



# Concerns with Roadside Memorials



- A visual distraction and can be dangerous to the motoring public.
- Often include crosses and other religious symbols, violating the constitutional principle of separation of church and state because public facilities are being used to promote religion.
- Unauthorized use of public property for private purposes.



# Local Policy Development – Guiding Principles



- Ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians.
- Do not infringe on property rights of adjacent property owners.
- Remember those who were lost by installing a roadside memorial in the general proximity of the death.
- Highlight the importance of motor vehicle safety to the community when the death occurred as a result of a vehicle related accident.
- Standardize memorial placement, materials, and length of time the memorial can be on the public right-of-way.



# Policy Highlights



- Immediate family members (parents, children, spouse, siblings, grandparents, or grandchildren) may request a permit to place a memorial by completing an application.
- The memorial may remain in place for no more than 90 days.
- If the memorial is not removed within 5 days after the 90 days have expired, the City will remove the memorial from the City's right-of-way and dispose of the materials.

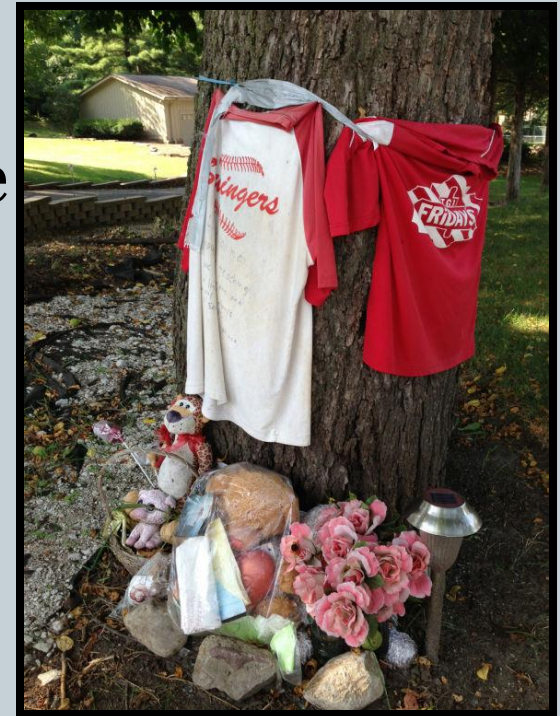




# Policy Highlights



- Roadside memorial should not contain any lights, lit candles or other luminescent devices.
- Responsibility and maintenance of the memorial is that of the applicant.
- City of Savannah reserves the right to remove any memorial that appears to be causing a health or safety issue.



# Roadside Memorial Timeline

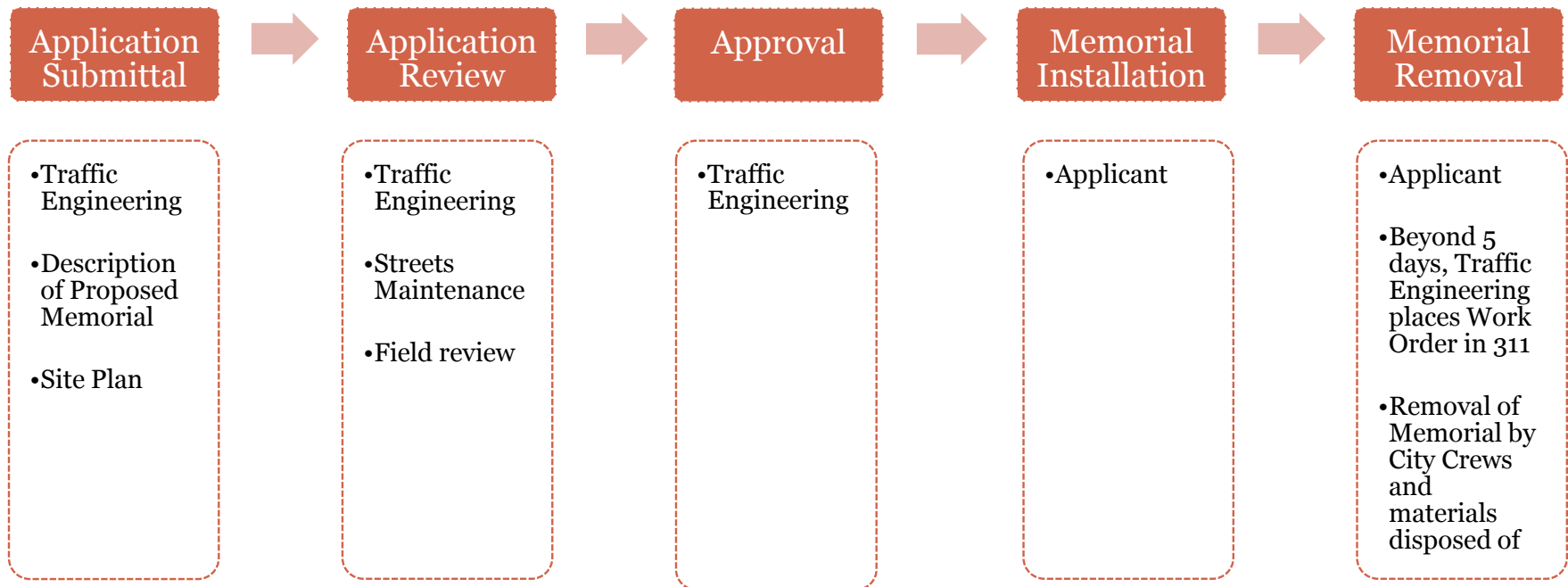


Submission →  
Approval  
**7 days**

Approval →  
Installation  
**7 days**

Installation →  
Removal  
**90 days**

# Roadside Memorial Work Flow





# Next Steps



- City Council approval of the Roadside Memorial policy.
- Field review to identify existing memorials.
- When possible, contact family members of existing memorials to notify them of upcoming changes.
- Work with Public Information Office to communicate policy implementation.
- Implement policy in 2016.